

Serial No. 09/788,491

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 9-12 and 15-22 are canceled without prejudice, claims 1, 6-8, 13, 14 and 23 are amended and new claims 24-26 are added by the present amendment. Claims 1, 6-8, 13, 14 and 23-26 are pending in the present application.

The rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action are believed to be moot in light of the present amendment.

In particular, the outstanding Office Action at page 14, item 7 indicated that claims 5 and 10 are allowable. In light of this indication of allowable subject matter, independent claims 1 and 8 are amended to include the features of claims 5 and 10 (and the features of the respective intervening dependent claims), respectively. Further, amended independent claims 13 and 14 are written as means-plus-function claims including similar features to amended independent claims 1 and 8, respectively; claims 6 and 7 are amended to depend on amended independent claim 1; and claims 2-5, 9-12 and 15-22 are canceled.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted amended independent claims 1, 8, 13 and 14 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Also, the outstanding Office Action at page 15, item 9 indicated that claim 23 is allowable. In light of this indication of allowable subject matter, new claims 24-26 are added which include similar features to allowed claim 23. It is believed no new matter is added, and that new claims 24-26 are allowable at least for similar reasons as claim 23.

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Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 22, 2004

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